

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06535 01 OF 02 120919Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----086165 120929Z /12

P R 120745Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3257  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMMEMBASSY LONDON 3963  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JSECTION 01 OF 02 JIDDA 6535

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, SA  
SUBJECT: SAUDI POSITION ON LEBANON

1. NOTE VERBALE OUTLINING SAG POSITION ON LEBANON WAS HANDED  
POL COUN ON SEPTEMBER 10 BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS ABD AL-RAHMAN MANSOURI. EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. SAUDI ARABIA SHARES THE CONCERN OF THE UNITED  
STATES FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON AND ITS ANXIETY OVER  
CLASHES BETWEEN THE SYRIAN TROOPS AND MORONITE MILITIAS IN  
THE NORTHERN PART OF MOUNT LEBANON.

3. MOVED BY THIS CONCERN, THE KINGDOM HAS EXERTED EFFORTS  
WITH SYRAIN OFFICIALS FOR PACIFICATION, AND THEY HAVE  
RESPONDED POSITIVELY BY PLEDGING NOT TO BE FIRST IN ANY  
ACTION AGAINST THE MARONITE MILITIAS, THOUGH THEY RETAINED  
THEIR TROOP'S RIGHT FOR SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST THE MILITIAS'  
ONSLAUGHT. SYRIAN OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO ASKED THE KINGDOM TO OFFER  
ITS GOOD OFFICES WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR COUNSELLING THE  
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MARONITE MILITIAS TO REMAIN QUIET ON THEIR PART, AND NOT TO PROVOKE  
THE SYRIAN TROOPS FOR COUNTER-ACTION.

4. HENCE THE KINGDOM'S MOVE TO INVOLVE THE UNITED STATES  
IN MAKING EFFORTS WITH THE MARONITE MILIITAS FOR PRESERVING  
CALM AND AVOIDING PROVOCATIONS, ON ONE HAND, AND IN MAKING  
EFFORTS WITH ISRAEL ON THE OTHER TO REMAIN QUIET AND NOT

TO ENCOURAGE THE MILITIAS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS.

5. INSPIRED BY THIS CONCERN, THE KINGDOM HAS ALSO ADOPTED POSITIONS ON THE RENEWAL OF THE ARAB DIETERRENT FORCE'ANDATES IN HARMONY WITH THE INTEREST OF LEBANON AND WITH THE INTEREST OF CONSOLIDATION OF THE LAWFUL AUTHORITY IN LEBANON. THOSE TWO CONSIDERATIONS SHALL CONTINUE TO GOVERN THE KINGDOM'S STANDS IN THIS REGARD.

6. ON THE ARAB WORLD LEVEL, THE KINGDOM HAS MADE EFFORTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE ARAB LEAGUE FOR THE RESTORATION OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN LEBANON AND SHALL WORK TO THIS END AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. PERHAPS THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING AT NEW YORK DURING THE U.S. GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S SESSION WILL OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER EFFORTS.

7. SAUDI ARABIA BELIEVES THAT ADDITIONAL U.S. EFFORTS WITH THE MARONITE MILITIAS AND WITH ISRAEL FOR ACHEIVING THE SAME END IS DESIRABLE SO THAT EFFORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO ALL ELEMENTS IN THE ISSUE, PARTICULARLY THE ILLEGITIMATE ONES.

8. SAUDI ARABIA WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT ITS EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON ARE DIRECTED AT CONSOLIDATION OF THE LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY IN THE  
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ABSENCE OF WHICH NO PEACE OR STABILITY CAN PREVAIL IN LEBANON. LIKewise, THE KINGDOM'S CRITERION FOR THE SOUNDNESS OR UNSOUNDNESS OF THE SYRIAN TROOPS' STANCES IS BASED ON THE EXTENT OF THOSE TROOPS' SUPPORT FOR THE LEGITIMATE POWER IN LEBANON, AND ON THEIR DEALING AND COOPERATION WITH THAT AUTHORITY, A CONDITION WHICH THE OFFICIALS OF THE LEBANESE LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY HAVE ASSURED THE KINGDOM EXISTS IN FACT.

9. THIS SAUDI VIEW OF THE ACTIONS OF THE SYRIAN TROOPS STEMS FROM THE CONSIDERATION BY THE KINGDOM THAT THESE TROOPS ARE PART OF THE ARAB SECURITY FORCES WHOSE LEGITIMATE TASK IS DERIVED FROM THE ARAB LEAGUE RESOLUTION WHICH WAS TAKEN AT THE REQUEST OF THE LEBANESE LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE THE LAWFUL TASK OF ENDING THE CIVIL STRIFE, SOMETHING WHICH NECESSITIATES SHORING UP THE LEGITIMATE POWER IN LEBANON.

10. THUS, THE KINGDOM BELIEVES THAT ALL GOOD OFFI MUST BE CONCENTRATED WITH ALL EMEMENTS CONCERNED TOWARD BEEFING UP THE LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY IN LEBANON, CONDITIONS IN LEBANON HAVE DEVELOPED IN A MANNER FAR FROM BEING A WAR BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS, OR A

DISPUTE BETWEEN MARONITES AND OTHER CHRISTIAN FACTIONS.  
THE CONFLICT HAS DEVELOPED INHONETWEEN THE LEGITIMATE  
LEBANESE AUTHORITY AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. THUS THE ACTIONS  
OF THE PHALANGISTS MILITIAS AND THEIR ALLIES CANNOT BE  
VIEWED AS LAWFUL, AND THE PHALANGIST MILITIAS CANNOT  
BE REGARDED AS REPRESENTING THE ENTIRE MARONITE SECT,  
OR THEIR ACTION IN THE INTEREST OF THE MARONITES. GENERALLY,  
OTHERWISE HOW-UNDER SUCH CRITERIAN-COULD THESE

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----086321 120936Z /14

P R 120745Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3258  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 JIDDA 6535

EXDIS  
MILITIAS' TERRORIST OPERATION A ZAGHARTA AGAINST  
FORMER PRESIDENT SULAIMAN FRANJIYAH AND HIS FAMILY, ALL  
MARONITES, BE CONSTURED? ADDITIONALLY, IS NOT THE  
LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE PRESENT PRESIDENT, SARKIS,  
A MARONITE? AND SO TI BECOMES CLEAR THAT THE MILITIAS  
CANNOT REPRESENT ALL THE CHRISTIANS AND CANNOT BE  
REGARDED AS ALL THE MARONITES.

11. IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF  
CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS, THE  
KINGDOM FEELS THROUGHT CONTACTS WITH SOME OFFICIALS OF  
LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY IN LEBANON THAT THEY CANNOT CLEARLY  
DISCERN THE UNITED STATES' POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE  
LEGITIMATE LEBANESE AUTHORITY, SINCE THEY VIEW THE U.S. STANCE  
AS ONE OF COMMUNICATING MESSAGES FROM THE MILITIAS AND  
FROM ISRAEL WITHOUT ADOPTING AN INDEPENDENT CLEAR  
ATTITUDE OR TAKING A POSITIVE ACTION ILLUSTRATING  
SUCH A STANCE.

12. WHAT IS NOTICEABLE IN LEBANON'S DEVELOPMENTS IS THE  
DEGREE OF ISRAEL'S READINESS TO INTERFERE IN MATTERS  
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WHICH HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH ITS SECURITY. IF EVENTS  
IN SOUTHERN LEBANON ADJACENT TO ITS BORDERS MAY SERVE  
AS A PRETEXT IN THIS REGARD, WHAT HAS ISRAEL TO DO WITH  
EVENTS IN THE NORTHERN PARTS OF MOUNT LEBANON OR IN  
BEIRUT UNLESS ITS GOAL IS SHEER AGGRESSION AND THE  
PROMOTION OF INSTABILITY IN LEBANON AND IN THE ENTIRE  
REGION IN GENERAL. END TEXT.  
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## Message Attributes

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